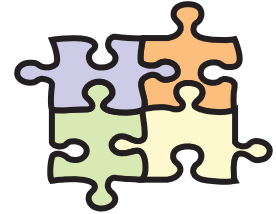


Infection Connection

"The Intent is to Prevent"



July 2010



Welcome DiGi

Steph DiGiovanni has joined the Infection Control & Prevention Department as part-time Infection Preventionist/OR Liaison covering all three sites. The best way to reach Steph is through email or by paging her – pager# 4780.

Changes to Employee TB Testing

Following a review of the current recommendations and regulations from the CDC, OSHA, and the PA Department of Health, the Infection Control and Prevention Committee has revised the requirements for departments and personnel that receive annual and 6 month TB screening.

Only a select number of departments and occupational groups will continue to be screened annually or every 6 months, based on the procedures they perform (e.g. high risk procedures such as bronchoscopies) or the potential for routine unprotected exposure to minimally screened, high risk patients. Annual TB screening is limited to the following departments and personnel:

Departments (personnel) To Receive Annual or 6 month TB Screening

Annual

GI Lab
Anesthesia
Interventional Radiology
Emergency Department
Respiratory Therapy
Medevac

Every 6 months

AIDS Activity Office
Microbiology Laboratory
Cytology
(personnel who assist with fine needle aspirations/bronchoscopies)
Pathology
(personnel who have contact with specimens)
Histology
(personnel who have contact with specimens)

Pre-employment TB screening by QFT blood test or two step Mantoux skin test will continue to identify latent and active cases of TB prior to personnel entering the network.

Post-Exposure TB screening will also continue for all personnel after an exposure to a previously undiagnosed TB patient to determine if transmission of TB has occurred. This consists of a baseline test and a follow up test at 12 weeks to determine transmission of TB.

The frequency of TB screening will be assessed annually and modified if necessary.

Save the Date for Annual Community Flu Campaign

November 6 – Dorney Park in Allentown, 9am-3pm

November 7 – Coca Cola Park (Iron Pigs Stadium) in Allentown, 9am-3pm



SAGE Comfort Bath (Bath-in-a-Bag) Provides Safety & Comfort



Evidence based research demonstrated a decrease in infections when the traditional bath basin, soap and water is replaced with a Bath-in-a Bag product. Please encourage your staff to utilize the Comfort Bath product for the comfort and safety of our patients. An important **REMINDER** is that the Comfort Bath products are **NOT FLUSHABLE** and must be disposed in the regular trash. In addition **DO NOT** use the Comfort Bath product to clean an incontinent patient. Please use regular or disposable washcloths along with the recommended skin care products to protect and prevent breakdown of the patient's skin.

*Critical Care Units should continue to utilize the **CHG wipes** as the routine bathing product for all patients.

MRSA Screening and Decolonization Quick Tips

Who to Screen:

Start Date for: 7/19/10

- Admissions from Nursing homes
- Admissions from TSU
- Transfers from other hospitals
- Patients in High level critical care units
- Patients on Dialysis (peritoneal and hemo)
- Anyone with a history of MRSA

Who to Decolonize:

The following patients who screen positive for MRSA should be decolonized (nasal mupirocin and CHG baths):

- All patients that are scheduled for surgery
- All high-level critical care patients
- All patients receiving dialysis (peritoneal and hemo)

***Contact Isolation should be initiated upon notification of the positive MRSA screening result and be maintained for the length of the hospitalization.**

Computer On Wheels (COWs)

Please clean the COWS with a hospital approved disinfectant daily or when visibly soiled. The protocol for cleaning the COWs can be found in the Infection Control & Prevention policy, Clinical Services, on page 4, #21.



Got CEUs? Save the Date for The 2nd Annual Fleming Infection Prevention and Infectious Diseases Symposium

Join us on Friday, October 1 from 7:30-4pm in the LVH-CC, Kasych Pavilion for The 2nd Annual Fleming Infection Prevention and Infectious Diseases Symposium. 6.0 Continuing Education contact hours will be available.